

TABLE TALK

MARCH 2024

TAURANGA BRIDGE CLUB | 252 Ngatai Road, Otumoetai 3110 | 07 576-5022 | www.taurangabridge.co.nz



Happy
Birthday
MARCH

Pam Clotworthy
Gaelyn Douglas
Julie Eagle
Sue Finlayson
David Fornusek
Gill Friis
Sarah Graham
Sandy Hastings
Bev Knight

Alan Lawton
Isobel McIntyre
Hilary McKenna
Judy McLeod
Laurel Mehaffey
Steve O'Brien
Helene Paterson
Pat Verran
Janice Watson



WHAT'S ON IN MARCH
(Make a note in your diary)

Monday lunchtime Bridge sessions 10.45am

Social Bridge begins March Sunday 17th 12.45 for 1pm start (*monthly until June 16th then weekly*)

Committee Meeting Tuesday 19th March - a reminder about the Suggestion Box on the Director's Desk

Lessons for Beginners are being held Wednesday evenings. As a member of our club you are invited to attend any or all of the sessions (free of charge)

EASTER: Please note in your diary/calendar that there is **NO Bridge** Thursday evening 28th, Friday daytime 29th nor Monday evening 1st March

Lost Property currently displayed on the whiteboard also a pair of boots on the carpet.

Please make sure that your birth month is entered into Hello Club – no need to put the year

AFTERNOON TEA ROSTER

Thanks to those who have responded promptly to our request for volunteers for Tuesday & Friday afternoon teas.

The roster is up on the noticeboard. All assistance is greatly appreciated.



DID YOU KNOW...?

When your partner fails to follow suit, it is **YOUR** responsibility to say 'Having none partner.' The player must not say it, as they can be seen to be alerting their partner to the fact. **It is a very good habit to get into, often saves a revoke!**



OUR FEBRUARY WINNERS



Mon	Dust Off the Cobweb Pairs Cherrywood Shoes Champagne Stakes Craig's Investment Partners	Jackie Blue & Gillian Corbett Sue Handley & Bruce Gibson
Tues	Welcome Back Handicap Pairs Harcourts Althorp Village Pairs	Desrai Karl & Mark Newman <i>Unfortunately, a technological glitch... Results delayed</i>
Wed	Welcome Back Pairs Baybat Batteries NZ Ltd I Spy Pairs Gaspy	Alan Lawton & Liz Swanston Jayne King & Mark Newman
Thurs	Restricted Non-Rotational Teams <i>Ultimate Motor Gp</i> Handicap Teams Thursday Teams Trust	Shirley Bain, Lyn Baillie & Graham Young, Brenda Brett Kelly Jenny Lynam, Cathy Parker, Brenda Brett Kelly & Norm Silcock
Fri	The Renovation Pairs Cooper Young Construction	Pam Bell & Judy Pawson



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS...

Maybe you don't know this about me but I'm a very technologically minded person. My family got our first home computer when I was just 5 years old in the late 80's and I was enthralled by it. I tinkered with everything I could find on that computer, I broke things and then frantically had to work out how to fix them before my parents figured out I had broken them. The computer came with a reference manual for the BASIC programming language, so I taught myself computer programming from that manual when I was about 8. In 3rd form (now year 9) I did a Maths project where I programmed a bunch of small games in BASIC. I got 100% for that project and knew that was what I wanted to do for a job. Fast forward almost 30 years and not much has changed! I'm still interested in all things technology and I'm programming mobile phone apps for a living.

So I thought today I would talk a bit about a piece of technology that we use at the Tauranga Bridge Club: Hello Club. Karen, also very technologically minded, was a big driver of bringing in Hello Club, primarily with a view to reducing the amount of cash handled by the club by allowing members to add credit which is automatically deducted as table money when playing at the club. It also came with the extra benefits of managing our membership database, managing keyless entry to our clubrooms and club event management.

Although we have been using Hello Club a number of years now, some members still have issues logging in to add credit to their accounts. While we can take Eftpos and cash at the club and manually credit your account this creates extra work for David, our wonderful administrator, and doesn't happen in as timely a manner. So I thought I would share with you some tips for getting in to your Hello Club account if you're having trouble doing so. Remember that the web address for accessing Hello Club is taurangabridge.helloclub.com or you can follow the link from the club website.

1. Logging in by social media or username and password? When you first created your account you would have chosen whether to login using your Google or Facebook account or to specify your own password. If you can't remember which method you used then just ask David or myself and we can get those details for you.
2. Not sure what your username is? If you chose to create your account using a username and password then Hello Club would have generated a username for you. If you're unsure what that username is, again just ask David or myself and we can look it up for you.
3. Forgotten your password? This is probably the most common issue for members. When attempting to login with username and password if it keeps telling you that your password is incorrect you can request a password reset. A bit below the text fields where you enter your username and password it will say "Trouble signing in?" and below that is a "Forgot Password" link that you can click. Enter your username and it will send you an email to set a new password. If you can't remember your username see point 2 above!

As mentioned, the main thing you will do once logged in to Hello Club is add more credit to your account. To do this, click the blue Account button below the club logo on the main page. It is on this next page that you can see your current account balance. Next click the green Credit Account button at the top right of the next page and follow the instructions on the following pages. If you choose to pay by POLi there will be no additional fee, credit cards incur a small fee.

Hopefully this will help some of you find your way into Hello Club where previous attempts were thwarted! As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if you're having difficulty with Hello Club as I'm more than happy to help.





TIP OF THE MONTH #4 – Declarer Play – a common conundrum

	♠ AK2	
	♥ J109	
	♦ QJ103	
♠ QJ1087	♣ K72	♠ 653
♥ 873	Dealer South	♥ A52
♦ K2	Nil Vul	♦ 854
♣ 964		♣ QJ53
	♠ 94	
	♥ KQ64	
	♦ A976	
	♣ A108	

Bidding:

South opens a weak 1NT (12-14pts), and North, with a balanced hand and 14pts raises straight to 3NT.

Lead:

Textbook “top of a sequence” – West leads QS.

Play:

South counts 5 quick winners, and has options for more in Hearts and Diamonds. (S)he has 2 stoppers in Spades, and is missing 2 critical cards, the AH and KD. South must hold up once, to make sure East has no more spades after 3 rounds, and hope East has one of AH or KD....but which to play for first?

Declarer #1 knew (s)he had to lose the AH, so took the second spade trick and led JH. East took AH and cleared spades...when West got in with KD, 2 further spade tricks took the contract light.

Declarer #2 thought further....by taking the Diamond finesse first, the contract is secure as long as East has one of the 2 honours...if it is the KD, 11 tricks will be made; if it is the AH, it is important to lose that after East has run out of spades.

Lessons:

1. Holding up on the initial lead is a proven strategy, especially in NT contracts. With Axx, one often holds up twice. With AKx, similarly, it is important to hold up to the third round and it often pays to lose the first trick (unless a switch by leader would be more damaging).
2. When 2 critical cards are missing, play for them to be split between defenders, and aim to lose the first trick to the defender with the long suit. If that defender (with the long suit) has both critical cards, usually nothing can be done.

BRIDGE LESSON SCHEDULE 2024

20 March	1-Level opening bids
27 March	Responder’s limit bid
3 April	Responder’s new suit bids
10 April	Opener’s Rebid
17 April	Rebidding with Balanced Hands
24 April	<i>Revision</i>
1 May	Responder’s Rebids
8 May	Overcalls
15 May	Takeout Doubles
22 May	<i>Revision</i>
29 May	Pre-emptive Opening bids
5 June	Strong Opening Bids
12 June	<i>Revision</i> Graduation

A huge thank you to our members who have very generously offered their assistance with the lessons!

If you would like to attend any of the above (as a refresher) you just turn up on Wednesday evening to the back room prior to 7pm.

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

Mastering the ‘art’ of playing Bridge takes a lot of practice including things like Improver lessons, You Tube clips, reading, receiving help from more experienced players, going over hand records . . . As you know there are a lot of rules around this game of cards and also a code of behavior/etiquette.

A huge thanks to **Belinda Ford**, who up until this year was our Etiquette convener. She compiled a substantial resource for the Club which we continue to use. Pat Ware is now our Etiquette convener and will be regularly updating the area on the noticeboard. I especially encourage newer players to make a point of reading it however we all benefit from a reminder.



MARCH TOPICS

Be a Tosser! Some of our members have sitting rights due to mobility / health issues. The rest of us are required to toss to determine which pair will sit North/South. When the die is 'tossed', odds or evens are called & if correct that pair sit North / South.

Timeliness Explained in detail on the board. A reminder that we shouldn't need the Director chivvying us along!



PARTNERSHIP STEWARDS

The partnership stewards are clearly identified in your Bridge Program. They will assist you find a partner in the event you would like to play but haven't arranged anyone, or your partner is unable to play. The Tuesday & Friday Stewards have an email list that you can subscribe to, they will let subscribers know when someone is looking.

A number of our members are not attending because they don't have anyone arranged to play with . . . you are not alone! Please ask



PENS AT THE BRIDGE TABLE



Andrea Cawley of Eve's Real Estate, one of our sponsors, has very generously provided us with pens over the past few years. We now realise that these pens are refillable so ask that you do NOT throw away when they run out of ink!

We will pop a container for them on the Director's desk. The cost of the pens has risen to approx. \$3 so we also ask that if you have mistakenly taken one (or more) home, that you return them to the Club please.

EDDIE CANTAR BRIDGE HUMOUR

A lady in my class can only play by rhymes. These are her favorites:

1. When the dummy is to your right, lead the weakest suit in sight.
2. When the dummy is to your left, lead through left.
3. Don't be cute, lead partner's suit.
4. The lead of top of three small is worst of all.
5. The one who knows, goes.
6. You will lose face if you underlead an ace.

MUSINGS AT THE TALBE

Over the last 2 months we have covered most of the issues regarding **alerting** (if I have left something out, or if you have any questions, ask me anytime).

There are a few more important points to cover:

1. When you are asked for an explanation of partner's bid, it is good manners and good bridge to give a **full and accurate reply**. Instead of "Tartan 2", "5 of that major and at least 4 of a minor, less than an opening hand" is hugely better. Instead of "Michaels", "at least 5/5, spades and a minor, weak or strong" is again hugely better. Instead of "Inverted minors", "at least 4 diamonds and 6-9 points" is a full and helpful response. After all, not everyone knows what "Tartan Two's" or "Michaels Cuebids" are, and not everyone plays them the same way.
2. At the end of the auction, **before** a card is led, the Declaring side (either declarer or dummy) must correct a mistaken explanation, if one has occurred. However, a mistaken bid should not be corrected. Furthermore, the defenders must not correct any of their explanations (in case that gives information to partner) until after the hand has been completed.
3. Can I emphasize again the importance of asking general questions, as defender. Rather than asking "what did that 3 diamond bid mean?", ask what the whole auction means. **Be careful NOT to suggest a lead or play to partner by your questions.**

AND REMEMBER: Watch the clock.... chat (quietly) after the hand has been completed, not before....more on this theme next month.

Hugh McAlister